

MEMO: ATE

SECRET

DISPATCH NO. RGPA-8111

8 DEC 1955

TO : Chief, EE Division

FROM : Chief of Base, Frankfurt

INFO: Brussels

SUBJECT: General - Operational/HINAY

Specific - Laszlo PECZELY, MHBK Chief in France

1. As the result of a TPFEEELUNG notice dated 7 October 1955, we have become aware of the fact that Subject has been approached by Jozsef LUKACS, ostensibly Hungarian consular attache in Paris, with the proposition that Subject accept repatriation to Hungary, being offered various advantages if Subject accepted the opportunity. At the risk of duplicating information already known to Headquarters, particularly in view of the fact, as [] reminds us, that [] recruitment followed a similar pattern, we wish to call this to your attention. It has also occurred to us not only that this repatriation program lends itself to AVH agent spotting activities, but that LUKACS may himself have a direct association with the AVH in an agent capacity, if not as a staffer. Although LUKACS' approach to Subject is apparently a well publicized fact and as such seems to hold no immediate value for KUBARK since [] is doubtless alert to LUKACS' and Subject's association, if not controlling it, we should like to suggest that Headquarters may see some merit to viewing the product of the VENUS operation in this light both in hopes of recognizing similar activities in Belgium, and for any possible suggestions as to LUKACS' own activities that might be indirectly reflected by PETER's reporting.

2. Below is quoted in full the TPFEEELUNG notice, which is identified as [] ITEM No. 8586/55; date of info is September 1955, and it is further noted that LUKACS' activities and the "way how he conducts his campaign were described in Paris ITEM No. 5546/55":

"An unusually clumsy attempt to induce an outstanding Hungarian refugee to "go home" was made the other day in a PARIS street, when the Hungarian consular attache Josef LUKACS himself accosted a total stranger and offered him all kinds of advantages if he agreed to return to BUDAPEST.

"The attempt was directed against the President of the Hungarian Veterans' Association (MHBK) in France, Col. Laszlo PECZELY, who is about 68 years old and who has been living in France since the end of the war. Col. PECZELY is working in a French factory.

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SECRET

DISPATCH NO. EGFA-8111

Page Two

"Around the middle of September 1955, the colonel noticed "strange characters sneaking about" his home and the factory where he works. He was wondering what they wanted of him when, on September 21, he was stopped in the street on the way to his work by a young man whom he had never seen before.

"The young man, excusing himself for delaying PECZELY, immediately introduced himself as the consular attaché Jozsef LUKACS.

"LUKACS opened the conversation by telling PECZELY that he was very pleased to meet him and that the Hungarian Legation had been keeping an eye on him for a long time.

"We know a lot about you and the hard life you are forced to lead in France," LUKACS said according to the colonel. "It really is a shame that a man of your age and capacity should have to work in a factory to gain his daily bread. And since you are not on the black list of war criminals, we at the Hungarian Legation have decided to help you."

"Col. PECZELY interrupted the consular attaché, telling him that he had to get to work and did not have time to pursue this conversation in the street. LUKACS then asked for an appointment later on and the colonel (accompanied by one of his friends) met him later in a PARIS coffee house.

"LUKACS told him that the Hungarian Government would be pleased to help PECZELY to return to Hungary. He said that the colonel would get his full pension and "an adequate remuneration" for the years he spent in France without the pension due to him.

"Apparently in a generous mood, LUKACS extended his invitation also to the colonel's friend, urging both of them to make quick decision to return to Hungary.

"Col. PECZELY told LUKACS that he wanted to think things over for a while and that he would call on the Hungarian Legation in case he wanted to avail himself of the Hungarian Government's invitation.

SECRET

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DISPATCH NO. EGFA-8111
Page Three

"Only a few days later, Col. PECZELY and his wife received an invitation from Maj. Sander KARPATI, Hungary's military attaché in PARIS, to the celebration of the day of the Hungarian people's army at the Hungarian Legation on September 29 1955. PECZELY did not accept this invitation."

Approved: []

Distribution:

3 - SE
1 - []
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7 December 1955

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